

National Security Sciences Building



Program Profile

The highest priority of the National Nuclear Security Administration's Stockpile Stewardship Program is to ensure the operational readiness of the U.S. nuclear weapons stockpile. Los Alamos' new National Security Sciences Building will support this objective by providing modern, productive facilities for theoretical and applied physics and computational science, as well as program and senior management functions.

NSSB Facts

- The facility that currently houses these functions, SM-43, is 45 years old and has significant safety, security and functional problems. For example, structural evaluations indicate that the seismic capacity is about 25 percent of that required by current codes, which makes the building vulnerable to both earthquakes and terrorist attacks. Building systems are inadequate and no longer meet standards for office and light laboratory use, and as a result, programmatic work is being disrupted. The current facility requires an additional \$445,000 a year in energy costs, compared to a modern building of similar size.
- The National Security Sciences Building will be an eight-story structure of approximately 275,000 square feet that will house 700 staff, roughly nine percent of the Laboratory's workforce. It will also include a 600-seat lecture hall/auditorium and a parking garage that will provide an additional 400 badly needed spaces to the core area of the Laboratory.
- Additional benefits include improved ability for the Laboratory to recruit and retain new staff. This NSSB project will support more than 1,000 design and construction jobs in the region over the 30 months of construction and generate approximately \$2 million in gross receipts tax revenue in the 2004 fiscal year alone.
- Demolition of the 315,000 square foot SM-43 is planned for the 2006-07 fiscal year, using Laboratory institutional funds.
- The Laboratory has been very successful in recent design-build construction projects, including the Nicholas C. Metropolis Center for Modeling and Simulation and the Nonproliferation and International Security Center and the new joint Emergency Operations Center. Building on this success, an integrated team comprised of the National Nuclear Security Administration, Los Alamos National Laboratory and Hensel Phelps Construction Company of Greeley, Colorado, will construct the NSSB under a design-build contract. Total project cost is estimated at \$97 million and the project is scheduled for completion in 2006.



Architectural concept of the new Los Alamos National Laboratory National Security Sciences building.



Los Alamos National Laboratory is operated by the University of California for the U.S. Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration